



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration



Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653

phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov

**For immediate release
August 24, 2006**

**Media Contact: Sandy Rusch Walton
414.286.5464 Office
414.303.3686 Cell**

CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND We ENERGIES ANNOUNCE \$360,000 GRANT AWARD

City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Commissioner Bevan K Baker, CHE announced today in a press conference that We Energies has awarded \$360,000 to the department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). This collaboration will enable the MHD to help qualified home owners replace old windows with more energy efficient and lead-safe models.

"I applaud We Energies for stepping forward to partner with the Health Department in our mission to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the City of Milwaukee by 2010", said Commissioner Baker. "This is another fine example of the public and private sectors in Milwaukee joining together to make our community safer for our children and their families."

The We Energies grant, which began June 16th and will run until December 31, 2006, will help ensure lead safety for up to 600 low-income households. The city has identified several near-north and -south side neighborhoods where a great majority of lead poisonings occur. Of these properties, 85% of all childhood poisoning cases occur in rental units with deferred maintenance. The window replacement program is designed to reach out to property owners or owner-occupants with children under 6 years of age. Replacement windows reduce lead hazards in older homes (pre-1950) and provide increased energy efficiency. New windows also enhance the livability of homes, and such property improvements help support overall neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has earmarked more than \$1,000,000 for the City's primary prevention lead hazard control program. HUD funding contributes \$160 per replacement window in a home. The We Energies grant contributes an additional \$50 per replacement window to help offset the cost of installation. The property owner pays the remaining costs, typically about \$40 per window. With an average of 12 windows replaced per house, the grant would cover up to 600 homes.

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To date, the MHD has 23 lead abatement contractors for this project, who order and install the windows. Windows approved for installation by the MHD are Energy Star rated, have insulated glass filled with argon gas, and include a glass breakage guarantee. Work is monitored for safety and quality by lead risk assessors in the department. Nine units have been completed with another 44 units in progress. September already finds 48 units scheduled for work.

For more information on the replacement window project and/or the lead reduction program in general, call the Milwaukee Health Department at 414.286.5025, or visit the City of Milwaukee Health Department website at www.milwaukee.gov/lead.

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